

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

January 13, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
11209/9215 (FA-106) P

EMS Transmission 01/14/03
Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2003-020

To: State Directors, State Fire Management Officers, State Academy Coordinators

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: National Interagency Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program Facility Open House
and Graduation Ceremony, February 6 and 7, 2003

You are invited to attend an open house event at the new National Interagency Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program Facility on Thursday, February 6, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. The grand opening celebration will be held at the new McClellan Business Park Training and Conference Center which is the former site of the McClellan Air Force Base at 3237 Peacekeeper Way, McClellan, California.

I also extend this invitation to the graduation ceremony being held on Friday, February 7, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. This will be the first class to graduate from this facility.

The opening of this facility was an interagency response to the implementation of the National Fire Plan, and the need to train and hire more wildland firefighters and future fire managers. The Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program was originally established in 1990 to train employees of the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. The Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs soon began to participate in the program, and by 1998 it received national status and is now a registered national interagency apprenticeship program with the U.S. Department of Labor. The program trains federal entry-level fire management career personnel to become future leaders for all the federal wildland fire and aviation management programs.

With the implementation of the National Fire Plan, the program has grown from approximately 150 apprentices to over 500 new apprentices annually. The graduation ceremony will be the largest class so far to have graduated from the program.

If you have any questions, please contact either of these National Office of Fire and Aviation Employees:

- Ted Mason, Training Specialist at 208-387-5336, or
- Janelle Smith, External Affairs at 208-387-5473

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